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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/672,328	09/29/2000	James A. Belmont	99104CON	1547

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Michelle B Lando Esq
Cabot Corporation
Law Department
157 Concord Road
Billerica, MA 01821-7001

EXAMINER

OH, TAYLOR V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1625

DATE MAILED: 05/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Advisory Action
Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief**

Application No.

09/672,328

Applicant(s)

BELMONT, JAMES A.

Examiner

Taylor Victor Oh

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--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 04 April 2005 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☐ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
(a) ☒ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
(b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
(c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
(d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: see pages 2-4. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
7. ☐ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☐ will not be entered, or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.
The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
Claim(s) allowed: _____.
Claim(s) objected to: _____.
Claim(s) rejected: _____.
Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☒ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: see pages 2-4.
12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08 or PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.
13. ☐ Other: _____.

It is noted that applicants have filed an Amendment after the Final Rejection on 4/4/05; applicants' attorney has addressed the issues of record. The proposed amendment will not be entered because the amendment raises new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. And it is not in a condition for allowance.

The Status of Claims

Claims 1-27, and 29-31 are pending.

Claims 1-27, and 29-31 have been rejected.

Claim Rejections-35 USC 112

1. Applicants' argument filed 4/4/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

The rejection of claims 1-27 and 29-31 under 35 USC 112 , second paragraph, has been maintained due to applicants' failure to modify in the amendment.

Claims 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 9 , the clause "when p is greater than 1 " is recited. The expression is vague and indefinite because there is no upper limit. Therefore, the examiner recommends to add the range from 1 to 500 instead of the expression of "greater than 1".

Applicants' Argument

2. The applicants argue the following issues:
 - a. In claim 1 , the terms "comprising" and "comprises" related to the pigment product and pigment do not render this claim vague and indefinite but rather describe the inventive compositions in the manner is clear and consistent with the art;
 - b. Regarding the spatial arrangement of the pigment , claim 1 states clearly that it has two groups (a steric and an organic group or one amphiphilic group)

attached to the pigment; this does describe in the present application (see page 3 ,lines 15-19); therefore, there is no need to recite specific examples for each of these groups ,but it is defined by the properties of the groups;

c. The terms “ spacer group”, “ functional group”, “ polymer” would understand clearly the meaning of each term in the specification.

First, with regard to the first argument, the Examiner has noted applicants' argument. However, claim 1 is directed to not a composition , but a compound claim. In the compound claim, the use of the word “comprising” or “ comprises” is simply not acceptable because those expressions create indefiniteness in the compound claim. The pigment may have some groups attached to it ,but without definite chemical structures of them, the pigment product becomes vague and indefinite. Therefore, the rejection is maintained.

Second, with regard to the second and third arguments, the Examiner has noted applicants' argument. However, the claim is directed to the single compound product. There are numerous examples for each of them. That is why each expression of “ a steric group” , “ an

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organic group”, “amphiphilic group”, “spacer group”, “functional group”, and “polymer” is vague and indefinite. They are components made-up for the final pigment product. There is uncertainty as to what the final pigment product would be like. Furthermore, the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 requires that the claims particularly point out the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention. A claim referring to the specification is improper. Exparte Fressola, 27 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1608 (U.S. Pat. & Trademark Bd. Pat. App. & Int 1993). This rejection can be overcome by adding those examples from the specification to the claims. An appropriate correction is required.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Taylor Victor Oh whose telephone number is 571-272-0689. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cecilia Tsang can be reached on 571-272-0562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Amv. Jh
4/20/15

Cecilia J. Tsang
Cecilia J. Tsang
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1600